Memo to File 9/18/92

Had a lengthy phone conversation this afternoon with Mike Rhode (pronounced Rhod-ee), Chief Archivist of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP. I was referred to him by Chris Kelley, the AFIP's public affairs officer.

Rhode alerted me to the fact that he's already had a couple of requests for the Finck documents, including one from JAMA, which is apparently doing a follow-up interview with Finck, who is still alive and well in Geneva, Switzerland.

He has a copy of Finck's 1965 report to Blumberg. The way the museum got it is that Blumberg died in 1985 and his wife wanted the AFIP to clear all of his papers out of their house. These were contained in a number of boxes. An envelope was found containing Finck's report, and it was marked "To be opened only be General Blumberg." For approximately three years, Blumberg's papers were stored behind an exhibit at the Museum until they could figure out what to do with them.

The HSCA may have gotten something more or different or just about the same from Finck directly.

Finck apparently attached approximately 100 pages of photocopied material to his report, including the autopsy pathologists' testimony, some of Robert Frazier's testimony pertaining to the clothes, WC exhibits, excerpts from the Warren Report, and newspaper clippings. Rhode went through it for me on the phone and assured me there were no marginalia. He said he does not provide copies of this stuff simply because it takes too much time. Also attached, however, were "letters of appreciation" from Blumberg, Galloway, Kenney, A.J. Hall (?), Robert McNamara and two others not named, but I'm getting the photocopies of those.

Rhode professed to have no knowledge of the one-page memo that Chris Kelley mentioned to me, but I included it in my written request as a precaution.

Earlier, I spoke with Kelley about Captain Karnei, who was interviewed by Livingstone. He says Karnei may be a little bit shy about talking with anyone else after the experience. Didn't know Livingstone was taping him, and I got the impression from Kelley, who knows Karnei, that he thought all or part of what he was telling Livingstone was off-the-record.

RBF

Forgot to mention. Finck said the envelope was unopened so they asked his wife if she wanted them to open it, and ~~they~~ she said to go ahead. (was it given to Jim Garrison??? Just in case!! Holy shit.